Production targets of FCV tobacco

3673. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1173 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the target of production for FCV tobacco for the year 1992-93 in comparison to current year's production;

(b) the production target fixed by Tobacco Board for the coming year indicating the time when the decision was taken to this effect and the number of representatives of the tobacco growers and traders attended the said meeting while fixing the target; and

(c) whether the Tobacco Board invited suggestions from the growers in this regard, if so, the details of their views?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) As against a crop size of about 132.75 million kgs produced in Andhra Pradesh in 1991-92, a crop target of 101 to 103 million kgs for 1992-93 has been fixed by the Tobacco Board in its meeting held on 25.7.1992, which was attended amongst others by five representatives of growers and three representatives of traders.

(c) Yes, Sir. The majority of farmers suggested a norm of not less than 3000 kgs. per barn in northern light soils and 2500 kgs. per barn in other soil regions of Andhra Pradesh. The crop size, if calculated as per these norms, would be around 101.3 million kgs.

Decanalisation of import of films

3674. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decanalise import of films;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background for such step and the time by when such decanalisation scheme would come into force;

(c) whether such step would yield some good results;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Hindustan Photo Films and the National Film Development Corporation would continue to import films?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (f) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 decanalisation of import of films has already been effected. Finished rolls of cinematographic colour films (unexposed) positive, photographic films (Colour), photographic films (black and white) other than 120 and 620 size rolls, micro films, microfiches and reader-cum-printers, film strips/slides are freely importable and can be imported by anyone.

As regards cinematograph feature films and video films, imports by Doordarshan, All India Radio, National Film Archives of India, National Film Development Corporation, Film and Television Institute of India and the Childrens' Film Society of India are permitted without any licence.

The Import Policy in respect of films is in line with the policy of liberalisation.

New Institutions working abroad

3675. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new offices of Boards/Institutions or other bodies of his Ministry opened abroad during the period from June 1991-June 1992;

(b) the number of officers/other employees which have been sent abroad to the new offices or old offices for posting in the above period;

(c) the number of officers/other employees which have been asked to return to India on transfer or new postings;

(d) what is the total staff strength of his Ministry posted abroad in offices

under his Ministry, the details of their salaries and other allowances in foreign exchange paid annually by his Ministry; and

(e) what is the extent of new export business generated by these office in last one year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No new office of Boards/Institutions or other bodies of the Ministry of Commerce were opened abroad during June 1991 to June 1992.

(b) and (c) A total number of 11 officers/other employees were sent abroad during June 1991 to June 1992 for postings in old offices and 13 officers/other employees were asked to return to India on transfer/completion of tenure.

(d) and (e) The details of staff strength, expenses on salaries and allowances and the export business generated by various offices under Ministry of Commerce are as under:

Name of Office	Total staff abroad	Expenses incurred on pay & allowances in 1991-92	Export business generated during 1991-92
a			
India Trade Centre (Brussels)	11	Belgian Francs 67.51 lakhs	This office has been set up as a promotional agency lending support to Indian exporters
Marine Products Export Development Authority:			
(i) Tokyo	2	Yen 52.10 lakhs;	Rs. 45.32 crores.
(ii) New York;	2	US $34,629	
Tea Board			
(i) London	4	£41,330	
(ii) New York	2	US£ 75,086	21.56 Million kgs
(iii) Dubai	5	DH 2,82,413	
(iv) Brussels	2	Belgian Francs 22,59,324	

New contracts for export of iron ore

3676. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far taken any decision to discontinue the export of iron ore, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government propose to enter into any new contracts for export of iron ore during the current financial year, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have decided to formulate a new scheme relating to development of iron ore based industries in this country, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Iron ore exports are continuing as per the existing contracts. Iron ore surplus to domestic requirements is proposed to be allowed for export and new contracts can be entered into by the MMTC and